

# VIETNAM COURIER

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## Valuable Aid from Socialist Countries

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** From August to November 1969, the DRVN Government Economic Delegation led by Mr Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Vice-Premier, successively visited the People's Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the Romanian People's Republic, the Bulgarian People's Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, and concluded with the Governments of these countries agreements on economic and military aid to Viet Nam in 1970. Two other Economic Delegations of the DRVN visited the Republic of Cuba and the Albanian People's Republic and negotiated with them aid agreements in favour of Viet Nam.

On December 2, 1969, the DRVN Council of Ministers met to hear a report by Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi and a communiqué was later issued in this connection, saying:

"THE DRVN Council of Ministers notes with gratification that, warmly welcomed by the host socialist countries, the DRVN Government Economic delegation has successfully fulfilled its tasks. It is very happy to note that the Parties, Governments and peoples of the various socialist countries have enthusiastically hailed the great and all-round successes of our people in their struggle against the US imperialists. At the political, diplomatic, and diplomatic fronts, and held that these brilliant successes had greatly contributed to the movement of the peoples throughout the world against US imperialism. What greatly inspirites our people is that the Party and State leaders of the socialist

countries have shown agreement with the appraisal of the situation by our Party, Central Committee and Government and with the attitude, line and policy on the fight against US aggression, for national salvation. They have severely condemned the obnoxious and vicious nature of the Nixon administration, reaffirmed their solidarity with our people, and voiced their determination to increase all-out support and assistance to our people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation till final victory.

"The DRVN Council of Ministers holds that the signing of agreements on economic and military aid

this time is a great and valuable help from the various socialist countries extending in the spirit of proletarian internationalism in our struggle, strengthened our economic and national-defence forces so as to defeat the US imperialist aggressors and completely defend and build socialist construction. This greatly contributes to the consolidation and development of the militant solidarity and friendship between our country and the fraternal socialist countries.

"The DRVN Council of Ministers expresses the profound and sincere gratitude of the DRVN Government and people to the Parties,

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## PLAF Successes in November

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## REFLECTIONS ON SON MY

HERE is now enough evidence to affirm safely that far from being an "incident" as claimed by the US, as well as the White House, Son My was an organized massacre ordered from above and executed in cold blood. To be convinced of this one needs only to read the terrible confessions made by American soldiers back from Son My, to relieve their consciences. They had been instructed to raze the village and exterminate all its inhabitants.

We are at present witnessing a real awakening of conscience of ex-GIs in Viet Nam. Every day brings new disclosures:

Terry Reid, belonging to an infantry unit, described how the GIs had raped women before slaughtering them. Now he and his buddies had been hunting down women sprawling in the fields, including so women and children. Then, there were helicopter pilots who fired wantonly at women, for fun, and a GI who, to make up for the loss of a watch, had vowed to shoot down so civilians and he had lived up to his word. And so on, of the horrible facts that shock the conscience of America. They are, however, very familiar to us, and the

US authorities will have to take to great pains to cover up other atrocities of their troops, especially at Ba Lai, An, Krong H'king, etc.

Some of the killings might be regarded as "incidents." We need only to enquire into the affairs to find the truth buried under that appearance.

"I've brought up my son in the hope to make of him an honest man," said Mrs. Meadlo, mother of a repenting GI having taken part in the Son My massacre. "But they have dressed him a uniform and the US Army has trained him into a murderer!"

That is how the origin of all these "incidents" has been brought to light. Young Americans, workers or students full of zest, have been led from one crime to another by their own leaders. They put a rifle in their hand and said: "Go to Viet Nam, and free the population there from the clutches of the Viet Cong man-eaters!" And you know it is less right than that. Crimes like the one in Son My wait for them at the turn of the road, inevitably.

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The tractor station at Gia Loc, Hai Phong province, is ready to serve the Winter-Spring rice crop.







## MILITARY OPERATIONS

PLAF Successes  
in November

**I**N November, the PLAF again caught the US Command and its guard with a series of massive attacks against the puppet Marine HQ in Rach Gia province, the "Special Forces" camp at Bu Prang and Bu Dop, nearly 400 positions held in the Mekong Delta and more than 100 positions, command posts and airfields in the rest of South Viet-Nam.

MORE THAN 4,700  
ENEMY CASUALTIES AT  
BU PRANG—DUC LAF  
AND BU DOP

**I**n the Western High Plateau, in spite of all enemy efforts to strengthen its support bases and increase the number of troops especially B-52's, the camps which are part of his "forward defense" system continued to be targets of devastating strikes.

At Prang, about 17,000 North Vietnamese and NLF, the enemy who had been forced to abandon 3 fire bases between Oct. 28 and Nov. 20, 1968, returned and laid claim. Between Nov. 2 and Nov. 5, more than 600 US and puppet troops were wiped out and dozens of officers captured. Southwest of the Lac Dap among the casualties were US pilots and "advisers."

In an attempt to relieve Bu Prang, completely isolated, a puppet battalion was moved in an encirclement. Engaged in furious fighting and sustaining heavy losses, these two units beat their retreat on Nov. 8, leaving the Central Front to fend for themselves. The Americans made a new try by hurling into the scene the understrength puppet Regiment No. 40, supported by a US anti-aircraft battalion transferred from Phan Rang to Ban Me Thout. The new-comers had to regroup

themselves at Hill 802, 8km West of Bu Prang, and expose themselves to the blows of the patriotic forces. In 3 days, from Nov. 13 to Nov. 15, 85 per cent of the combat units were destroyed, with 800 men killed or wounded.

The following days, the PLAF kept up their harassment, particularly from Nov. 20 to Nov. 23, they put more than 400 aden troops out of action, brought down 17 aircraft and destroyed 5 artillery pieces.

All told, between Oct. 28 and Nov. 29 in the Bu Prang—Duc Lap front, the PLAF knocked out nearly 3,500 combat units and 1,000 GLs. Remarkably enough, all the 3 regiments of puppet Division 23 which ensured the defense of this sector sustained heavy losses. Regiment 47 was the hardest hit.

The enemy also lost 76 helicopters and planes, about 90 artillery pieces, 63 military vehicles and dozens of arms, munitions and other military depots.

Fighting in close co-ordination with the PLAF operating in the Bu Prang—Duc Lap sector, those in Phuoc Long province put the Bu Dop "Special Forces" camp 13km North of Phuoc Long under constant fire. In 9 days (Nov. 3, 8 and 11 and from Nov. 15 to 20) they exacted a toll of more than 1,800 US and puppet troops, inflicted 100 losses upon a First Air Cavalry base, several US encampments and a puppet Ranger companies. In addition, they destroyed 18 armored vehicles, 64 vehicles and to cannons and mortars.

The patriots also pounded the Plei Can—Ben Tre camp, 254 km North of Duc Lap and decimated several companies moving out on a

relief mission. The PLAF also stepped up its activities against communication lines, such as Highways 14, 21 and 19. In particular on the section of Highway 19 West of Mang Yang Pass, the enemy lost more than 100 vehicles and more than 200 men. The enemy rear bases were not immune from attacks either. On the night of Nov. 15, the PLAF overran the Tan Tao airfield in Pleiku, destroying 26 aircraft, and disabling more than 100 enemy aircraft among them a large number of officers and technicians.

In the region of Binh Long and Tan Dao Mek the PLAF also erased several US encampments near Daat Tieng (Nov. 3 and 11) and at Coc Rung (Nov. 7 and 13), destroying 60 vehicles including 67 tanks and wiping out hundreds of GLs.

NEARLY 15,000 ADVERSE  
CASUALTIES IN THE  
DELTA AND URBAN  
AREAS

**B**EGINNING with the simultaneous overnight attacks of Nov. 6, 7 and 8, the November offensive of the PLAF was also directed against a whole series of positions, posts, bases and units in the Mekong Delta sector, chiefly in the Mekong Delta where, under the plan for the "Vietnamization of the war," the Americans had shifted over to the defense, the troops the main war burden.

In Rach Gia province, about 1,600 enemy troops were put out of action, 700 of them on the Xeo Roc canal on the night of Nov. 5 when the PLAF blotted out a puppet marine HQ.

The following days, the PLAF in Gia Lai, Tri, My Tho, Gia Long, Phuoc Long, Kien Giang, Kien Phong and Kien Tuong provinces raided nearly 300 positions, inflicting more than 10,000 casualties including hundreds of US personnel. The provinces, especially Ben Tre, My Tho and Gia Giang, constitute for the enemy key "pacification" areas, and all 3 provinces, the 7th, 8th and 9th, which had been assigned this task were seriously mauled.

In November, in the Tri-Thien-Hue area, South Viet Nam's Northernmost sector, in Central and Southern Trients, the patriots also conducted many attacks on US infantries and paratroops as well as on puppet

Rang, Daat Tieng, Bu Prang and Duc Lap, respectively 20 km southwest, 265 km east-northeast, 64 km northwest, 178 km north-northeast and 200 km northeast, of Saigon.

PLAF men also struck at the Tayen Binh subsector CP 195 km west-northwest of Saigon, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and many other positions and cut off Highway No. 4 linking Saigon to the provinces in the Mekong Delta.

## News in Brief

GIs' ANTI-WAR  
ACTIONS

**I**n 1968 there were over 60 cases of GIs in Viet Nam disobeying orders, demanding repatriation, threatening at their commanders, burning down structures or themselves in detention camps (including six cases of killing of COs). The rebellion of 750 GIs detained at Long Binh (20 km north-east of Saigon) in November 1968 ended with 59 casualties. The *Nation* and *The Guardian* have reported that at present 10,300 anti-war GIs are kept in jail and given ill-treatment.

**•** The most dramatic war protest in Viet Nam was on Dec. 17, 1968, when over 3,000 US servicemen stationed at Dong Du (30 km northwest of Saigon) staged an action lasting many days for the withdrawal of US troops.

**•** According to the *New York Times*, the American servicemen are more and more disgruntled at the Viet Nam war. In many military bases and positions, they have organized underground organizations and written newspaper articles and leaflets calling on their mates to oppose Nixon's unjust

war of aggression in Viet Nam.

**•** On Nov. 18, 1969, 300 GLs of the 54th artillery intergroup, ground units and military police at Phuoc Vinh base (60 km north-northwest of Saigon) signed a petition for an end of the Viet Nam war and complete withdrawal of US troops, by wearing black arm-bands sitting on 26 armoured cars.

**•** On Nov. 19, 1969, 1,000 GLs in the 54th artillery intergroup, ground units and military police at Phuoc Vinh base (60 km north-northwest of Saigon) signed a petition for an end of the Viet Nam war and complete withdrawal of US troops, by wearing black arm-bands sitting on 26 armoured cars.

**•** On Thanksgiving Day 1969, at Long Binh (20 km northeast of Saigon) 100 GLs filed with Nixon an antiaircraft petition signed by 125 artillerymen, MPs and military surgeons and 30 officers including a lieutenant colonel and two majors.

**•** On Thanksgiving Day 1969, 100 GLs staged a hunger strike as an anti-war action.

**•** At the field hospital No. 19 in Pleiku (20 km north-northeast of Saigon) about two officers, soldiers and surgeons fasted at the traditional Thanksgiving Day Nov. 27, in dissent over the Viet Nam war. They wrote Nixon a long letter bearing hundreds of signatures to explain the motive of their protest.

AN UNCOMMON  
TRIAL

**I**t is reported from Saigon that on Nov. 28, 1969, the Thieu-Ky-Khieu clique sentenced to death 43 people on charges of "treason," "complicity with traitors," "spying for the Viet Cong" and "destroying the national security." Among the accused were Huynh Van Trong, a Thieu's former adviser for security and home affairs, Vu Ngoc Nhu, one of the Thieu's chief secretaries, Le Huu Thuy, chief of the secretariat of the "Open Arms Ministry" of the puppet government, two journalists, a woman and a number of officials of the same "Ministry."

Before the tribunal Huynh Van Trong refuted all the charges against him, saying he was but a "puppet" serving the US and Nha. Nhu said he had been a close collaborator of Nguyen Van Thieu. The others also rejected all accusations against them.

Nevertheless, Huynh Van Trong, Vu Ngoc Nhu, Le Huu Thuy and another man were given life imprisonment; 39 others got prison terms ranging from 3 months to 20 years' hard labour.

According to the same source, this was a special tribunal in which there were no investigating but only police interrogations, no appeal, no dismissal. Many prisoners said they had been put to the trial without any hearing. The hearings were held in camera and attended only by newsmen and policemen.

The Thieu-Ky-Khieu junta was unable to bring anything to light as they expected from this trial which, on the contrary showed that even their people, including their closest collaborators, did not see eye to eye with them and had to be dealt with fascist methods.

## Latest News

**O**N the night of Dec. 2, at least 100 targets in the Mekong Delta, north of Saigon, south of the West High Plateau and Da Nang region, Western agencies reported 58 enemy bases and positions were bombed, some of them with "serious" losses in men and material. The targets hit by PLAF artillery included the HQ of puppet Infantry Division 7 at My Tho, the bases of Phan

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